



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **NEW YORK CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORN**

***-- Arrest is latest in global Internet child pornography probe that has netted more than 1,200 --***

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. – The Suffolk County Police Department Computer Crimes Section and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Resident Agent-in-Charge Office in Long Island today announced the arrest of a Long Island-based child psychologist for possession of child pornography.

Peter Mies, 57, of 38 Jay Court, Northport, New York, was arrested this morning by Suffolk County detectives and ICE agents as a result of a joint, ongoing investigation into the receipt and possession of child pornography via the Internet.

Mies is a child psychologist who works at the Building Blocks Pre-School at 29 Pinewood Drive in Commack, New York. He also works out of an office located at 120 Bethpage Road in Hicksville, New York. Mies surrendered to Suffolk County Police and agents from ICE at the Third Precinct in Bay Short. He has been charged with one count of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child, a Class E felony. Mies was transported to First District Court in Central Islip for arraignment.

Mies is the latest individual to be arrested as part of a massive, ICE child pornography investigation targeting an Internet billing company based in Minsk, Belarus and its affiliated entities in the United States. To date, the investigation has resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 people worldwide.

In January 2004, the Belarus firm was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites on its own. Three officers of the company were arrested in Europe and have been extradited to the United States. All three of those officers have pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., as have four officers of two affiliated companies in Florida and California.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic ICE offices and 52 Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites in the U.S. and abroad. ICE has arrested more than 237 in the United States and foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested more than 1,000 individuals in Australia,

Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Japan, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Some of the subscribers arrested to date include an elementary school teacher, priests, school principals, school coaches, school janitors, camp counselors, campus ministers, pediatricians, circus clowns, Boy Scout leaders, police officers, firefighters, and many others with direct access to children. Some of these individuals were also found to have been involved in the production and distribution of child pornography.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. ICE's non-governmental partners include World Vision at [http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusuf/nsf/stable/globalissues\\_stp](http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusuf/nsf/stable/globalissues_stp) and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at <http://www.missingkids.org/>. Additional information about Operation Predator is posted at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov).

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.*